

14 January 1965

TO: Director
OSGWT
FROM: KIDOVE
SUBJECT: GIBSON, Richard

1. A usually reliable source had reported the following summary of his conversation in London in late December 1964 with Richard GIBSON, a free-lance writer, former Chairman of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and former editor of the English edition of Revolution. GIBSON, a very light-skinned American negro married to an Englishwoman, was working in the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) newsroom when along with another colleague, Robert Taylor, he established the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in the early 1960's. GIBSON was in Cuba several times in 1961 and had met Fidel Castro Ruz and Ernesto Guevara Gernan, and various other Cuban officials.

2. Richard GIBSON stated that he knew quite well Robert Williams, the American Negro from Monroe, North Carolina, who had emigrated to Cuba and now seems to commute between there and Peiping, China.

3. According to GIBSON, he felt that the situation among American negroes (from what he could tell in Europe) was becoming very dangerous. He said that he had met in both London and Paris quite a few young American negroes in their late teens passing through en route to Prague, Czechoslovakia or Habana, Cuba for guerrilla and sabotage training. He further said he had the feeling that within six months to a year these trainees would begin infiltrating back into the United States in pursuance of Williams' idea of an urban guerrilla movement.

4. After he left the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, GIBSON related that he was recommended by the Algerian Ambassador to the United Nations (name not given) to be on the staff of Revolution

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africaine in Algiers, which was then edited by Jacques Verges. When the Algerians removed Verges, GIBSON stated that he followed Verges to Paris where the latter set up Revolution. According to GIBSON, he served as editor of its English-language version first in Paris and then in Lausanne, Switzerland, until a few months ago, when he split with Verges, who still owes him money and whom he is suing. Verges himself loved French high society, good food and luxurious living and spent most of his time in political agitation. The magazine was in fact largely edited by a Vietnamese on its staff who often wrote under other pseudonyms. The sale of the magazine was actually quite small. The Chinese bought about 3,000 copies of each issue but recently as many as 15,000 copies of each issue were piling up unsold in a garret in Paris. Andersen¹ in Lausanne was definitely a paid Chinese agent but he was on bad terms with Verges.

5. Source indicated that GIBSON seemed to be a very relaxed and quite humorous negro intellectual. GIBSON said he had worked for Revolution because of his interests in African and Asian independence movements - had never considered himself a Communist and did not now. Revolution, according to GIBSON, had many personal contacts with Trotskyites and there was certainly considerable Trotskyite influence in it.

1. Headquarters Comment: Source is probably referring to Hils Anderson of the La Cite publishing firm in Switzerland, which printed the Revolution before it was banned in that country. He has a continuing interest in Centre Laines, a propaganda organ reportedly sponsored by the Chinese Communists.

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cc: ONACTD

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